



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 16th April 2020

This new, daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: PPE for primary care; webinar on-demand; emergency regulations; temporary closures advice; BBC coverage; latest FAQs

PPE Information for Primary Care

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) have announced that a new online ordering site is being developed to enable primary care providers to register their requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) more easily. The site will be rolled out so that these providers can request critical PPE from a central inventory, with orders being shipped directly via Royal Mail. Further details on how to register will be released shortly.

[Learn more on NHSE&I's PPE webpage](#)

On-demand Webinar

For anyone who wasn't able to join last night's COVID-19 webinar for community pharmacy contractors with PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes, a recording is now available to [watch on-demand](#).

Emergency Regulations on Flexible Provision of Services

The Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services and Emergency Declaration) Directions 2020 declared an emergency requiring the flexible provision of pharmaceutical services with effect from 27 March 2020. Direction 2 states that until 1 July 2020 NHS England must exercise its functions, or consider exercising its functions, under NHS regulations relating to: relocation of premises, temporary flexible provision of hours and/or closures, appliance contractors, LPS pharmacies, and dispensing doctors.

In particular, the emergency provisions of regulation 61 mean that NHSE&I may allow a dispensing doctor practice to dispense medicines temporarily to normally ineligible patients if required to maintain adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the area.

Primary Care Commissioning (PCC) has issued a [helpful briefing](#) on the flexible provision of pharmaceutical services during the current pandemic.

[Learn more about the emergency regulations](#)

Temporary Closures

During the COVID-19 outbreak, contractors may, with good reason, temporarily close a pharmacy. New options for temporary closure are now available under emergency provisions in the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013.

PSNC has brought together guidance and resources on how contractors can apply or notify the authorities if they need to close for any of these reasons [on our website](#).

BBC News Coverage

BBC News reports that local pharmacies are facing a cash crisis, with many supplying prescriptions at a loss. The article features some of the pressures experienced in pharmacies at the moment and includes contributions from PSNC Regional Representative and independent contractor, Mark Burdon, and Chief Executive Officer of Community Pharmacy Lancashire, Kath Gulson.

Have you seen our latest FAQs?

PSNC's COVID-19 hub has an [FAQs page](#) with a large number of answers to queries posed by pharmacy contractors, their teams and LPCs; these are being updated on an almost daily basis. Recent additions include:

Q. Do we have to check the NHS Summary Care Record (SCR) for every shielded patient we are asked to deliver to?

If a patient asks a pharmacy to deliver a prescription to them and they tell the pharmacy staff that they are a shielded patient, it would be appropriate for a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to check the patient's SCR to confirm that their record has been annotated with a "shielded patient" flag. Explicit consent can be requested to make this check, but NHSE&I have advised that this is not necessary, where the pharmacy professional is just checking the SCR for a flag.

If the patient's SCR does not contain a shielded patient flag, but the patient confirms that they have been asked to self-isolate for 12 weeks by their GP or via a letter from the NHS, their general practice or hospital consultant, the pharmacy can assume at that time that the patient is eligible for the delivery service. The patient should however be advised to contact their general practice to ask whether their records have been flagged to indicate they are a shielded patient.

The list of shielded patients is subject to change over time, as GPs have the ability to add or remove people to the list as their clinical condition changes. Consequently, a further check of the patient's SCR would be appropriate if they ask the pharmacy to deliver another prescription in due course.

Q. If I have been directed to open for 3 hours on 10 and 13 April, do I claim payment for the directed hours or the national announcement?

Pharmacies are able to claim a payment of £750 for opening for at least three hours per day on each of 10 and 13 of April 2020. If you were open for 3 hours on each day, you should claim only once – the national announcement takes precedence and the claim should be made through that route. This claim will be made via the NHS BSA and more detail will follow.

[Find answers to more of your questions here](#)

Keep up-to-date with our hub page: psnc.org.uk/coronavirus

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